

HB 601 -- Telecommunications

Sponsor: Richardson

This bill changes the laws regarding telecommunications. In its main provisions the bill:

- (1) Establishes immunity from a cause of action for telecommunication firms that provide information, facilities, or assistance to locate a caller in an emergency through a plan or system related to the emergency communication services under Chapter 190, RSMo;
- (2) Specifies that a telecommunications company may seek a partial waiver or a complete waiver from the Public Service Commission to be exempt from any requirement to file or maintain a schedule of rates, rentals, charges, privileges, facilities, rules, regulations or forms of contract with the commission;
- (3) Exempts specified telecommunications companies that hold a state charter or are licensed to do business under Chapter 392 from most rules and regulations relating to the retail services under Chapter 386, except the companies may voluntarily comply with the commission's orders, rules, or statutes by notifying the commission. Telecommunications companies are still required to collect the universal service fund surcharge; report the intrastate telecommunications service revenues necessary to calculate the commission assessment, universal service fund surcharge, and telecommunications programs under Section 209.255; and comply with the emergency location requirements;
- (4) Exempts broadband and other internet protocol-enabled services from the regulations under Chapters 386 and 392 except that voice over internet protocol services must comply with the fees and registration requirements enforced by the commission under Section 392.550;
- (5) Specifies that the commission retains jurisdiction over all matters delegated to it by federal law and the bill does not modify these duties in any way; and
- (6) Allows telecommunications companies to register with the commission and obtain certification using the same process as used for voice over internet protocol service under Section 392.550.3.